

WASHINGTON EARNINGS COMPARED TO THE U.S. AND OTHER WESTERN STATES: A REPORT BASED ON THE CENSUS

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Total Earnings by Sex: Washington vs. the U.S. and Other Western States

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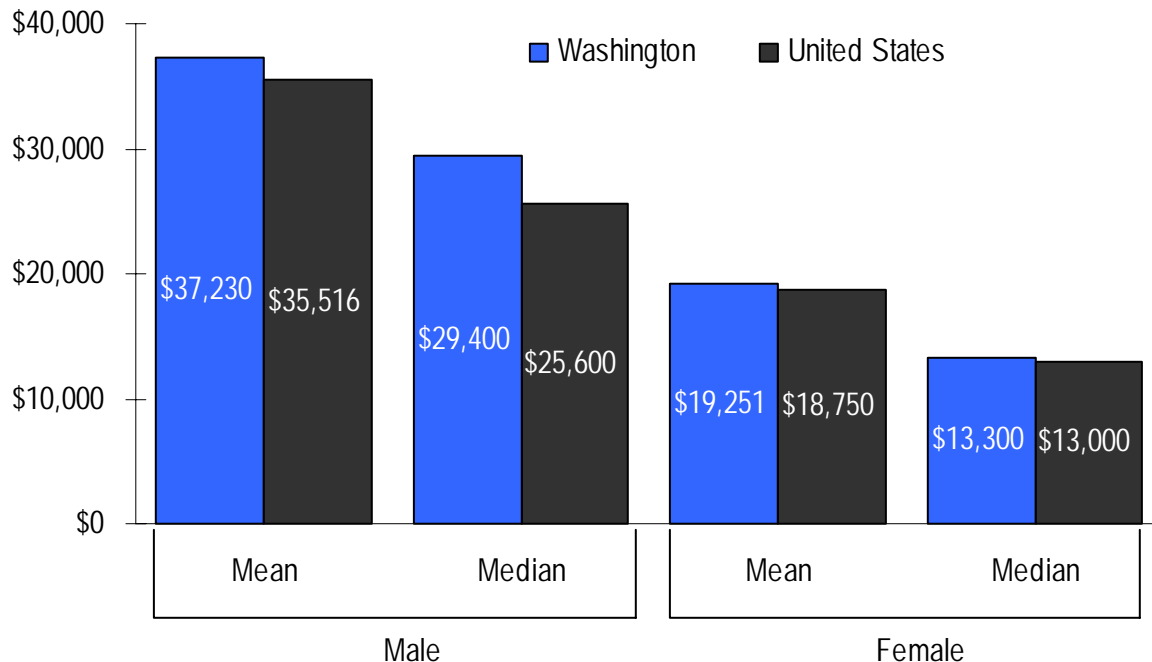
Using data from the 2000 five percent Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS), total earnings were examined by sex for all Washington and U.S. residents aged 18 to 64 (regardless of their work status). The mean and median earnings for Washington State residents exceeded the U.S. values for both men and women (see Figure 1). Washington women's mean and median earnings exceeded the U.S. mean earnings by \$501 dollars and \$300 dollars respectively.

With mean earnings of \$37,230 dollars, Washington's male mean earnings exceeded the U.S. male mean earnings by \$1,715 dollars. Washington's median earnings for males, at \$29,400 dollars, exceeded the U.S. male median earnings by \$3,800 dollars.¹

Washington vs. Other Western States

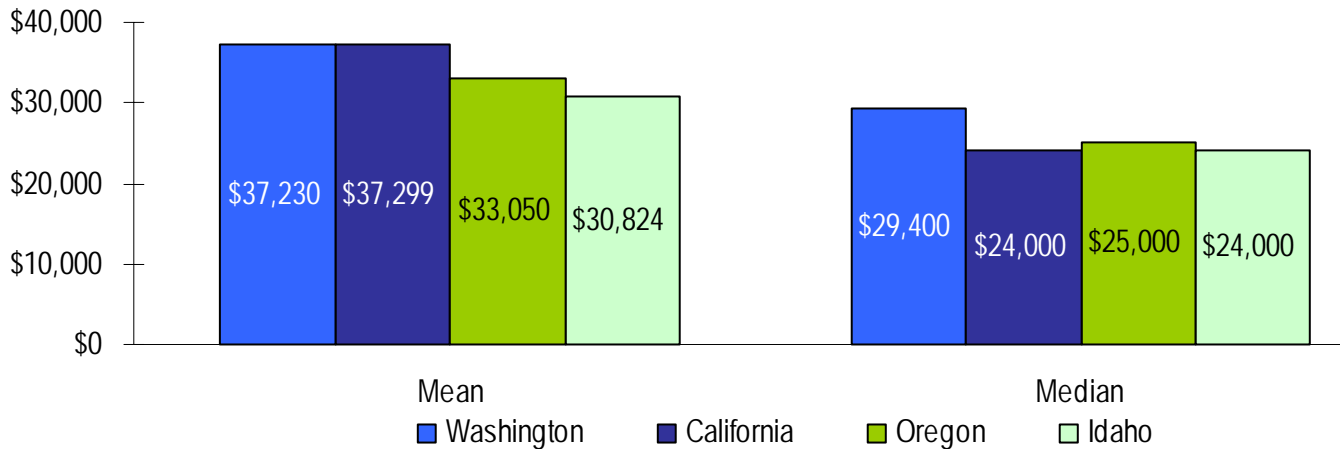
- The male mean earnings for Washington State were roughly the same as California's and higher than Oregon's and Idaho's (see Figure 2).
- Washington's male median earnings were \$4,400 dollars or more higher than the other three states examined.

Figure 1: 1999 Mean and Median Earnings by Sex for Washington State and the United States

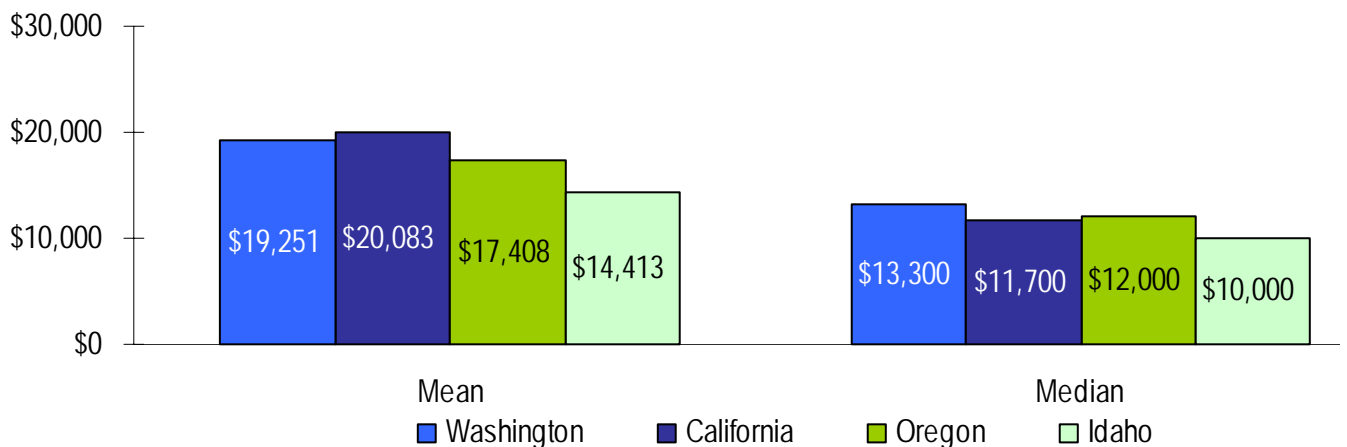


The Washington State data used in this analysis come from the 2000 five percent Public Use Microdata Sample, (PUMS). More information on this survey can be found at the Census website:

<http://www.census.gov/main/www/pums.html>.

Figure 2: 1999 Male Earnings for Washington State and Other Western States

- At \$20,083 dollars, California had the highest female mean earnings among the four states examined (see Figure 3). Washington had the second highest female mean earnings at \$19,251 dollars, followed by Oregon at \$17,408 dollars, and Idaho at \$14,413 dollars.
- Washington's female median earnings were \$13,000 dollars, higher than the three other states examined by \$1,300 to \$2,300 dollars.

Figure 3: 1999 Female Earnings for Washington State and Other Western States

1. For more details on why mean earnings were greater than the median earnings see [Research Brief 26A: Total Earnings for All Adults Aged 18 to 64 in 1999](#)).

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